

I have a very short statement I would like to make.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am pleased the Indian Prime Minister spoke today before a joint session. His remarks were thoughtful. He spoke of the great promise and values our two nations share—first of all, democracy.

I also welcome to the Senate today several Indian Americans from Nevada, including my friend, Dr. Chanderaaj, and several of my friends from the Sikh community in northern Nevada. I have gotten to know them. They did a number of events for me this past year. They are very interested in government. I am so impressed with them and their community, located mainly in Carson City, NV. They traveled throughout the night so they could be here today for this historic event.

The contributions of the Indian American community to Nevada and to this country are significant. They have made such a positive impact in communities across the Nation.

What we have going on in southern Nevada is exemplary. We have an Asian-American community there. There is no distinction between Pakistanis and Indians. They meet together; they join together. Unless you are familiar with the two communities, you could not tell them apart. They work together. Our largest and most famous Indian restaurant in Las Vegas is run by a Pakistani.

So, Mr. President, I am very happy they have made such a positive impact in Nevada and communities all across this great Nation. That is why I am so pleased the Prime Minister could be here today: to join our two great democracies, to recognize the common bonds between us, and to celebrate the promising future that lies before us.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize one of the leaders of the Indian community, someone who has been involved in government and politics. He helps Republicans; he helps Democrats. He is very interested in government. He is a physician by the name of Prabhu, who is a friend to so many of us. I acknowledge him today as being someone who has done so much to bring the communities together.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

IMPORT RESTRICTIONS CONTAINED IN THE BURMESE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2003

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the

Senate will proceed to the consideration of S.J. Res. 18, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 18) approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the joint resolution will be read a third time and placed back on the calendar.

The joint resolution was read the third time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 52, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 52) approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be 1 hour 20 minutes for debate on the joint resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum, and ask unanimous consent that the time run equally against all participants.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, a little more than 2 years ago, thugs working for the military strongmen of Burma attacked Aung San Suu Kyi and members of the opposition party that she leads, the National League for Democracy. The Government put Suu Kyi into what they call "protective custody." She remains under house arrest to this day.

In response to this heinous attack, America banned imports from Burma. We in Congress believed something had to be done. In 2002, those imports were valued at \$350 million, mostly in garments.

In the autumn of 2003, Burmese Prime Minister Nyunt, who had opposed the attack on the opposition party, called for a seven-point road map to Democracy.

But the road map led to nowhere. And a rigged national convention broke down when opposition representatives rightly decided to boycott it.

The strongmen of Burma then removed Prime Minister Nyunt from his post. They placed him under house arrest, for supposed corruption. And they replaced him with a hard-line general, whom many believe to have planned the attack.

Where does this leave Burma? In short, the ruling generals have consolidated their grip on power. And govern-

ment security forces continue to inflict innumerable human rights violations on the Burmese people.

This is a tragic situation. The long-suffering people of Burma deserve to be rid of the criminals who purport to represent them.

But what is the best way to do that?

When the Senate first considered banning Burmese imports, Senator GRASSLEY and I worked hard to ensure two key conditions.

First, we made sure that Congress would retain its constitutionally vested power to impose and evaluate trade sanctions. We should never write the President a blank check.

Second, we made sure that the law would direct the administration to work with other nations, to make these sanctions work. Unilateral sanctions seldom work. Unilateral sanctions typically harm innocent citizens far more than the odious rulers against whom they are aimed.

Sadly, events on the ground in Burma suggest that these unilateral sanctions have proved no exception to the rule. The sanctions have harmed innocent citizens. And the odious rulers remain in place.

The U.S. ban on Burmese imports caused a number of Burmese garment factories to close. Tens of thousands of garment workers, overwhelmingly women, lost their jobs. And more Burmese women, with nowhere else to go, turned to prostitution.

Today, the Burmese garment industry has to some extent rebounded, sustained by new orders from Canada, Europe and Latin America.

U.S. sanctions against Burma might have been more effective if other countries would join us in isolating the Burmese regime. But that has not happened.

To the contrary, China has embraced the Burmese government. China has invested in Burma's energy sector. And China has extended generous aid packages to Burma, including a \$356 million aid package that more than makes up for Burma's loss of America's import market.

Thailand and India share a long border with Burma. But Thailand and India have their own ideas about how to deal with Burma's military rulers. And those ideas do not include joining U.S. sanctions.

And ASEAN member countries continue to welcome Burma to their economic summits.

This is not a record of success.

Nevertheless, I will vote to renew the sanctions on Burma for another year. But I do so with an eye toward next year, when the sanctions automatically expire.

I know that most of my colleagues will vote reflexively to renew these import sanctions. Boycotting Burmese imports allows us to express our collective disapproval of the awful regime running Burma. But I hope that my colleagues will take a moment to consider whether a boycott is the best thing for the Burmese people.